

Commissioner for Patents

Page 2

February 21, 2005

**I. Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the referenced paragraphs of the specification as follows:

Please delete paragraph 4 found on page 6, under Section Heading "In The Drawings," and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 9A is a perspective view of a portion of the munitions trailer of Figure 9 ~~taken along the~~ generally viewed from the view line A-A thereof.

Please delete paragraph 4 found on pages 8 – 9, under Section Heading "Description of a Preferred Embodiment," and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 9 shows the deck and the undercarriage of the trailer 20 in exploded view. The frame 24 includes an elongate spine structure including a central main beam structure 72 connected to a plurality of lateral bulkheads that support the deck. A forward bulkhead 74 is attached to the leading edge of deck 22. A rear bulkhead 76 is attached at the opposite end. Intermediate first through sixth bulkheads 78, 80, 82, 84, 86 and 88 are attached intermediately along segments of main beam 72. The bulkheads are spaced apart and positioned in order to support the various deck sections. The various bulkheads have a lateral dimension corresponding to the deck width. The front bulkhead 74 and the first intermediate bulkhead 78 support the forward deck 34. The second and third intermediate bulkheads 80, 82 support the forward middle-deck section 38. The

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Commissioner for Patents

Page 3

February 21, 2005

fourth and fifth intermediate bulkheads 84, 86 support the rear middle-deck section 40.

The sixth intermediate bulkhead 88 and the rear bulkhead 76 support the aft deck section

36. The deck sections are connected to the bulkheads by suitable means such as welding.

Please delete paragraph 2 found on page 9, under Section Heading "Description of a Preferred Embodiment," and replace it as follows:

Running gear 26 includes an axle 90 that connects the front wheels 28. A rear axle 90A connects the rear wheels 30. The front and rear wheels are steerable according to well-known Ackerman geometry principles. Steering arms 92 extend from knuckles connecting the wheels to the axle 90. Tie rods 94 extend from the steering arms to the trailer tongue 32. Turning of the trailer tongue 32 causes a turning of the front wheels 28 in such a manner that upon execution of the turn, the wheels turn about a common center of rotation. A crank arm 96 is attached to the rear end of the tongue 92 32 and is also attached to a connecting rod 98. The other end of connecting rod 98 connects to a rear crank arm 96A. The rear axle 90A carries rear wheels 30 through conventional knuckle assemblies. Steering arms 92A extend rearwardly from the knuckle assemblies and connect to tie rods 94A that are connected to the central mounting plate carrying the rear crank arm 96A. Through the connecting rod 98, the rear wheels 30 turn about coincidental centers of rotation in complimentary correspondence to the front wheels.

Commissioner for Patents

Page 4

February 21, 2005

Please delete paragraph 4 found on page 11, under Section Heading "**Description of a Preferred Embodiment,**" and replace it as follows:

Figure 7 shows mounting chocks 62 mounted assembled on the various door panels. The chocks are mounted in opposed pairs on the first and second door panels of each set. Long bodied munitions items shown as bombs 106 are loaded onto pairs of corresponding chocks. As shown in this particular open deck configuration, two ranks of bombs are loaded on munitions trailer 20. A first rank is loaded upon the chocks that are attached to the first and second panels 42A, 42B of the fore set of doors. A second rank of bombs is loaded onto the chocks that are attached to the first and second door panels of the aft set of doors. In each case the loading and unloading procedures are accomplished as previously described. Support bars 112, 114 are swung out of the way as shown in Figure 7A. This permits access for the lifting platform of loading equipment to load and unload the munitions items. Figure 7B illustrates more particularly how a segment of a munitions item is held in the cradle provided by a chock 62.

Please delete paragraph 2 found on page 12, under Section Heading "**Description of a Preferred Embodiment,**" and replace it as follows:

A further use of the munitions trailer 20 in the open configuration of Figure 6 is shown in Figures 8, 8A and 8B. In this configuration, a plurality of missile racks are attached to the open door panels. A missile rack 116 is attached to each open door panel. The missile racks cooperate in pairs to hold elongate missiles. Each missile rack 116 has

Commissioner for Patents

Page 5

February 21, 2005

a vertical column 118 fixed by a base plate 119 to the mounting rails on the door panel. The top end of the column 118 carries a lateral cross member 120. Cross member 120 carries a plurality of chocks 122. The chocks cooperate in pairs, each chock cooperating with another chock on the next mounting rack to hold the body of the missile.

Please delete paragraph 3 found on page 12, under Section Heading "Description of a Preferred Embodiment," and replace it as follows:

A first pair of missile racks 116 are attached to the forward set of doors 42A, 42B for carrying a first rank of missiles 124. A like pair of missile racks are attached to the aft doors 46A, 46B to carry a second rank of missiles as shown in Figure 8. The missiles are loaded and unloaded using the deck openings 108, 110 with the respective side support bars 112, 114 moved away. The missiles are loaded and unloaded using an appropriate loader (not shown). In some instances the missiles may be of a size that permits manual loading and unloading. At the same time the missile racks 116 are in use other chocks 123 (Figure 8A) may be fastened directly to the rails 56, 58 on the door panels for holding a further supply of missiles beneath those carried on the missile racks.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY